(d) After July, 2005, the trend of industrial growth was fluctuating at the monthly level. It stood at 8.2% in August, 2005 compared to 8.6% in August, 2004. In September 2005, it was 7.3% against a 9.8% in September 2004. On a cumulative basis, industrial growth was higher at 8.8% during the six-month period of April-September, 2005-06 compared to 8.3% during the same period of 2004-05.

Development of Bio-Mass Energy

†*212. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONA L ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government regarding development of 'bio-mass' based energy sources in the villages keeping in view the abundant availability of 'bio-mass' in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether the said plan is effective;

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to make it effective; and

(d) whether Government will give priority to those States in these plans which are to a great extent lagging behind in the field of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) An Outline Plan was prepared for creating energy security in villages through use of locally available biomass resources with participation of local community.

(b) and (c) The test projects taken up under the Programme involve plantation of fast growing tree species for sustained supply of biomass and installation of improved chulhas, biogas plants, biomass gasifiers and biofuel units for production of energy. The projects would effectively meet the total energy requirements of a village for cooking, motive power and electricity.

(d) The focus is on remote villages which do not have access to electricity and where grid electricity is not cost effective or feasible.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.